standing work done by the securify forces including the J & K Police in combating the terrorism in the State under very difficult and trying conditions, and extended its condolences to the families of all those members of the security forces, administration and civilians who have lost their precious lives in this conflagaration.

A large number of suggestions for dealing with various aspects of political, economic and regional dimensions were made including the external factors involved. It was decided that the political dialogue would be continued, so that the political activities in the State can be restored. The meeting called upon all misguided youth of the State to shun the self-defeating path of violence and rejoin the political mainstream in the nation building activities.

A copy of resolution adopted in the meeting is enclosed as a statement.

STATEMENT

Resolution Adopted by the Meeting of Leaders of Political Parties of Jammu & Kashmir on 13 November, 1991

The meeting of several leading political personalities and representatives of recognised political parties viewed with deep concern the continuing activities of the Pakistani sponsored and trained militants in Jammu & Kashmir, which have inflicted widespread suffering on the people of the State, including loss of innocent lives damage to property, deprivation of means of livelihood, disruption of economic and commercial activities and uprooting of thousands of families from their homes and villages, thus seriously threatening our cherished secular and democratic ideas.

Kashmir has glorious traditions of secularism. Every effort must be made to nurture and stengthen the secular forces in the State. The meeting also reaffirmed the resolve of the people and their representatives to resolutely meet the challenge to the unity and integrity of the country. The meeting placed on record its appreciation of the outstanding work done by the security forces including the J & K Police in combating the terrorism in the State under very difficult and trying conditions, and extended its condolences to the families of all those members of the security forces, administration and civilians who have lost their precious lives in this conflagration.

The threat of militancy and terrorism can be met only by mobilising the will of the people at large. The meeting appealed to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladhak to stand united in these difficult times, to ensure return of peace and tranquility.

A large number of suggestions for dealing with various aspects of the political, economic and regional dimensions were made, including the external factors involved. It was decided that the political dialogue would be continued, so that the political activities in the State can be restored. The meeting called upon all misguided youth of the State to shun the self-defeating path of violence and rejoin the political mainstream in the nation-building activities.

Post Offices with Telephone Facilities In Villages of Chhota Nagpur of Bihar

1642. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open post offices with phone facilities in each village of Chhota Nagpur of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SH RI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). There

are 10725 villages in Chota Nagpur of Bihar. Out of which only 1767 have post offices. The post offices are opened keeping in view the justification for the same as per the departmental norms as also with reference to target fixed for opening of post offices. In view of this it is not possible to open post offices in each village. During the current year 1991-92 a target for opening 50 extra departmental branch post offices has been fixed for Chota Nagpur. It is, however, proposed to provide phone facility in every panchayat village.

Criteria for Awarding Contracts of Telephone Line in Remote Areas

1643. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for awarding contracts for laying telephone line in remote areas;

(b) whether response to tenders for laying telephone cables in remote areas is poor, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to award contracts to Labour Cooperative Societies on priority basis, if so, the modus operandi therefor;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether due to want of contractors the laying of liens, the work in Rajapur, Sandhudurg and Ratnagiri districts has been affected; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Contractors for laying telephone lines are awarded through an open tender.

(b) Some time in remote areas affected by terrorism there are difficulties in getting suitable contractors and the response to tenders is some times poor.

(c) It is not proposed to allot any special priority to Labour Co-operative Societies. The Labour Co-operative Societies should also participate in the open tender and give their offer.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Applications for Telephone Connections in Ernakulam District of Kerala

1644. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone applications pending in Ernakulam District, Kerala; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are 30396 applications waiting for telephone connections in Ernakulam revenue district as on 30.9.91.

(b) As per draft 8th Plan proposals expansion programme are being drawn with an objective:

to provide telephone practically on demand in rural and tribal areas;

waiting period for telephone con-